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REMARKS

In reply to the Office Action of February 10, 2005, Applicant submits the following remarks. Claims 1, 3, 8 and 16 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendment and these remarks.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,373,187 (Nagayama) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,916,503 (Uematsu). The applicant respectfully disagrees.

Amended claim 1 is directed to an OLED device with a substrate having electrodes defined thereon along a first direction and confined to an electrode region. Pillars are formed along the first direction on the substrate. The pillars extend past ends of the electrodes and outside the electrode region of the substrate to prevent electrical shorting.

Nagayama describes a display panel with a first layer of electrodes 103 under electrically insulating partition walls 120a, which are between second electrodes 107 (FIG. 2, col. 6, lines 15-22). The second electrodes 107 and partition walls 120a extend the same distance on the substrate 102 (FIG. 8).

Uematsu shows electrodes 23 on a top surface of a base layer 21 (Fig. 2A, column 6, lines 18-52). A bottom electrode 25 is located across the bottom of base layer 21 and the electrodes 23 across the top of the base layer 21 (Figures 2B and 2C, column 6, lines 18-52). An oxide film 26 is applied to the base layer 21 and used as a mask for the subsequently applied electrodes 23 (*id.*).

Nagayama does not suggest or disclose electrodes defined along a first direction that are confined to an electrode region and pillars formed along the first direction and extending past ends of the electrodes and outside the electrode region. For this element, the Examiner points to Uematsu. Uematsu shows an oxide film 26 that is used as a mask for subsequently applied electrodes 23. However, Uematsu does not describe the oxide film 26 as extending beyond an electrode region, where the electrodes 23 are confined to the electrode region. Further, even

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though Uematsu shows that the electrodes 23 end before the edge of the base layer 21 (Fig. 2A), Uematsu does not suggest that the oxide film 26 extends beyond the area on the base layer 21 where the electrodes end. Both Nagayama and Uematsu fail to suggest or disclose electrodes defined along a first direction that are confined to an electrode region, pillars formed along the first direction and extending past ends of the electrodes and outside the electrode region. Because the cited references fail to disclose or suggest at least these features, the applicant submits that no *prima facie* showing of obviousness has been established with respect to claim 1. Claim 7 depends directly from claim 1 and is similarly not obvious.

Claims 2-6 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagayama in view of Uematsu and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,111,356 (Roitman). Claims 8-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagayama in view of Uematsu and Roitman and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,140,009 (Wolk).

Amended claims 8 and 16 are each directed to a device having electrodes defined on a substrate along a first direction and confined to an electrode region and pillars along the first direction that extend past ends of the electrodes and outside the electrode region. Claims 2-6 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and claims 9-15 depend directly or indirectly from claim 8.

Roitman and Wolk both fail to suggest or disclose electrodes defined on a substrate along a first direction and confined to an electrode region and pillars along the first direction that extend past ends of the electrodes and outside the electrode region. Because the cited references fail to disclose or suggest at least these features, the applicant submits that no *prima facie* showing of obviousness has been established with respect to claims 2-6 and 8-16. Allowance is respectfully requested.

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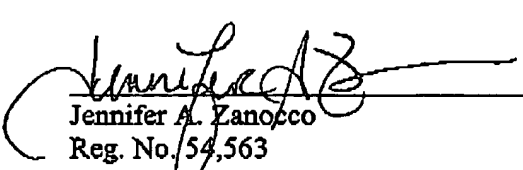
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No fee is believed to be due. If, however, there are any required charges or credits,
please apply them to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

April 8, 2005


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